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Board begins issuing non-clinical license for practice of administrative medicine

DES MOINES, IA - The Iowa Board of Medicine has begun issuing a new license for the practice of administrative medicine.

The license allows a physician to use medical and clinical knowledge, skill, and judgment in non-clinical advisory or administrative activities related to the practice of medicine or to the delivery of health care services.

The license does not include the authority to examine, care for, or treat a patient, delegate medical acts to other health care providers, prescribe drugs or controlled substances, or conduct clinical trials on humans.

Iowa's first administrative medicine license, No. AD-00001, was issued to Steven M. Scott, M.D., of Creedmoor, NC, on July 24. Since then, two other administrative licenses have been issued, and another one is in the application review process.

The holder of an administrative medicine license is subject to Iowa's Medical Practice Act (Iowa Code Chapter 148) and the same administrative rules as a physician holding a full Iowa medical license. Applicants for an administrative medicine license must meet the same qualifications for license as applicants applying for a full medical license, except they do not need to demonstrate continuous active clinical practice. They must also pay the same fees and meet all other requirements, including completing continuing education activities, for issuance and renewal of the new license.

The new license is being offered this summer after the Board completed a detailed process to write administrative rules and to program the agency's licensure database to implement a law passed by the Legislature in 2015.

The Federation of State Medical Boards says Iowa is one of 37 states and U.S. territories that issue some form of an administrative medicine license, filling a growing need. Over the past 20 years more physicians have taken executive positions in health care organizations and do not have clinical practices. An administrative medicine license, which is limited to a non-clinical

practice, allows a physician to have a state-issued license, which may be required as a condition of employment.

In addition to a full medical license and an administrative medicine license, the Board also issues licenses for physicians in resident training programs, special licenses for certain physicians recruited for academic staff at Iowa's two medical schools, and temporary licenses for physicians who practice in short-term settings, such as a medical director of a summer camp.

More information about the administrative medicine license is available on the Board's website:

<http://www.medicalboard.iowa.gov/licensure/administrative.html>